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Denver Rubber Duck Drop Makes a Splash



On Sunday, May 4th, my office hosted the **4th Annual Denver Rubber Duck Drop**, a community event to raise money for our local Denver Public Elementary Schools: Bradley International, Holm, Samuels, Southmoor, and Slavens K-8.

This was an exciting year for the Duck Drop. All 3000 ducks were sponsored and raced for over 50 prizes donated by local businesses. We raised approximately \$18,000 for the schools!

I would like to thank all the community members and local businesses who made this year's event possible and the most successful one yet. Please help us thank these businesses through your patronage.

Platinum Sponsors: Southwest Airlines, Qwest, Whole Foods Market
Denver Museum of Nature & Science

Gold Sponsors: Four Points Sheraton, Shea Properties, Subway
Goldsmith Metropolitan District

Silver Sponsors: The Janus Foundation, The Kenney Group, Winter Park Resort

Bronze Sponsors: Ace Hardware, The Avenue Theater, Baker Street Pub & Grill, Blockbusters, The Bookies Bookstore, Chili's Grill & Bar, Chipotle, Colorado Railroad Museum, Comedy Works, CRL Associates, Darcy's Bistro & Pub, David Cole & Associates, Denver Art Museum, Denver Botanic Gardens, Denver Municipal Golf Courses, The Denver Outlaws, Denver Parks & Recreation, Denver Theaters & Arenas, Denver Zoo, Einstein Bros. Bagels, Elitch Gardens, Klipp, Kroenke Sports Enterprises, McCormick & Schmick's, New York Deli News, Noodles & Company, On The Border, Optimist Club Monaco, Paradise Bakery & Café, The Pachner Group, Robert Gollick, LLC, Sage Hospitality Resources, Tattered Cover Bookstore, Trattoria Stella, Timbuk Toys, Wal-Mart Foundation, The Wildlife Experience

Public Meeting: Improvements Along the Cherry Creek

Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) awarded a grant of \$725,000 for trail improvements along the section of the **Cherry Creek Greenway** between Oneida St. (adjacent to Cook Park) downstream to Holly St. (adjacent to Garland Park). These funds will be leveraged with additional funding from the City and County of Denver as part of the recent Bond package passed this past November, along with support from the Urban Drainage, and Flood Control District and the Greenway Foundation.

Construction of this new 1.5 mile, 10' wide trail is intended to begin later this year and is anticipated to be open for use in the spring of 2009. A detailed overview of the project will be presented and questions will be answered at a public meeting:

Thursday, June 5th
6:30pm
Cook Park Recreation Center
(7100 Cherry Creek South Dr)

For more information, please contact the Greenway Foundation at 303-455-7109 or wjs@greenwayfoundation.org.

Empowering Denver's Neighborhoods: Collaboratively Strengthening Our Communities, Block by Block

Denver officials invite you to this year's **2008 Neighborhood Conference**, a day of community-wide networking and neighborhood leadership.

Saturday, June 28
8:30am to 2:30pm
Manual High School
(1700 E. 28th Avenue)

The day-long conference will encourage a shared vision for Denver's diverse neighborhood and community groups, allowing for collaboration in building stronger neighborhoods and leading to action on a block-by-block basis. This conference is for anyone interested in:

- Learning about the exciting things neighborhood associations and other organizations are doing to improve the quality of life in Denver's neighborhoods.
- Finding out how the City and County of Denver is working to engage residents in projects and plans intended to build community.
- Gaining practical tools for addressing a wide range of pressing issues.
- Networking with neighbors, groups and City officials.

The conference agenda will include presentations by local and national leaders on community building; workshops to address specific issues facing our neighborhoods; small and large group decision-making sessions designed to define what strong neighborhoods look like, and to identify effective strategies to promote them; plus opportunities for networking.

To register please contact Heather Barry at (720) 865-9103 or at heather.barry@denvergov.org.
Please register by June 20, 2008.

Information for Denver Voters

The **Denver Elections Division** has started mailing important information to registered voters about voting in the 2008 elections. Denver voters will receive three different mailings from the Division this election season, as part of its 2008 voter information campaign.

The first mailer details voting options for Denver voters, and contains a form allowing voters to apply for a mail-in ballot or update their voter registration information. Voters in Denver will have three choices of how to vote this year: they can *vote by mail*, *vote at an early voting location*, or *vote at a combined polling place on Election Day using a paper ballot*. Voters who prefer a mailed ballot can opt to be placed on the permanent mail-in ballot list, thus eliminating the need to apply every year.

If you are not a registered voter or have moved since the last election, the registration deadline for the August 12th Primary Election is **July 14th**. Voters needing more information can go to the elections website at www.denvergov.org/elections, or call the Elections Division at 720-913-VOTE (8683).

2nd Annual Earth Fair

Saturday, June 14th

10 A.M. – 3 P.M.

Magna Carta Park

(NE corner of Colorado Blvd. and Hampden Avenue)

Free for the Whole Family!

- 🌱 **Free Electronics Recycling Center for electronics**
- 🌱 Environmental interactive, educational booths including cars, clothing
- 🌱 Onsite sustainable exhibitors
- 🌱 KID'S ZONE with activities and enjoying the park
- 🌱 **Reptiles from Denver Zoo at 11 A.M.**
- 🌱 **Birds of Prey at 1 P.M.**
- 🌱 Many eco-friendly displays and demonstrations
- 🌱 Performances by local musicians
- 🌱 Solar panel companies offering one-day discounts
- 🌱 **Free Gifts**



Learn Steps for Living Green and Join the Fun.

Tennis Anyone?



Denver Parks + Recreation are currently accepting applications for summer tennis programs. Tennis programs are available for adults, seniors, and youth. For more information, please visit www.denvergov.org/recreation or call Tobias Ortegon at 303-880-4102.

Denver Youth= Free Recreation Center Use

The Mayor's Office and Denver Parks + Recreation have announced that Denver youth, 17 and younger, may use City recreation centers, including swimming pools, for *free* this summer. Free admission begins June 2nd and will run through August 16. Standard fees will continue to apply for programs and activities that typically are offered at an additional charge.

Denver residents may locate their nearest recreation center by visiting www.denvergov.org/parks_recreation and clicking on "Recreation."

Homeowner Protections for Repairs & Remodeling

One step Denver homeowners can take in protecting themselves and their property when undertaking a home improvement or repair project is obtaining a building permit. In exchange for the permit fee you will obtain an inspection to verify that the work was done correctly. To learn more about the city's building permit program please visit www.denvergov.org/residentialpermits.



Another critical element to home improvement is selecting the right contractor. Make sure to check out your contractor. Get references and utilize the Better Business Bureau. Homeowners should use licensed contractors to make sure qualified persons perform work. You can verify Denver licensing of a contractor at www.DenverGov.Org/Building.

'Summer' Reliable and Honest and 'Summer' Not!

From the Office of Denver District Attorney Mitch Morrissey...

As we celebrate the arrival of summer, it is once again time to remind ourselves and our neighbors about seasonal scams that can leave you hot under the collar. These scams typically include door-to-door roofing, paving and other home repair projects. The scam artists use charisma then intimidation to scam consumers into paying thousands of dollars for poor quality work.

To Protect Yourself from Door-to-Door Contractor Fraud:

- ✓ Don't ever do business with anyone soliciting business door-to-door.
- ✓ Get at least three bids on work, and don't always choose the lowest bid.
- ✓ Check out contractors with the Better Business Bureau – 303-758-2100.
- ✓ Insist on a written contract and don't be pressured into paying more for unauthorized work.

A general safety note: When working in your yard or enjoying a nice dinner on the patio – lock all doors that are not within your line of sight. Distraction and opportunity are two of the favorite strategies employed by "smash and grab" criminals as well as those looking to steal your identity.

For more information on *Contractor Fraud*, go to www.denverda.org and click on Consumer Alerts. For questions, call the Denver DA's Fraud Line: 720-913-9179.

Mediation to Resolve Community Conflict

Conflict is inevitable. It is our choice if we make the conflict productive or destructive. Daily we encounter individuals and organizations that choose to defend their position, rather than look for collaborative and cooperative resolutions. Professional conflict mediators help you resolve conflicts, big or small.

What is mediation?

- Mediation, facilitation, and constructive conflict resolution gives you the opportunity to explore real issues, away from the emotion and fear of destructive conflict. You're given the opportunity to develop creative and collaborative options, resulting in long-term and complete resolutions.
- Mediation is when people sit down face-to-face in a safe and neutral environment to work out ongoing problems and to improve their quality of life.
- It is a confidential process so everyone can safely look for and discuss solutions, knowing that what they say will not come back to haunt them later—what is said in the room stays in the room, except as agreed upon during the mediation.
- Mediation empowers you to:
 - Become personally involved in developing resolutions.
 - Search for common interests.
 - Negotiate an acceptable agreement.
 - Strengthen relationships.



Who is Denver Mediation?

- We are a nonprofit organization contracting with the City and County of Denver to provide free facilitation and mediation to residents and business owners who find themselves in conflict.
- Our professional mediators help people resolve conflicts between neighbors, neighborhoods and businesses, neighbors and developers, and even on occasion conflict with the City.

What can we accomplish?

- We help people solve complex problems and reach workable solutions.
- We coach people to resolve important issues while improving their ability to get along as neighbors.
- We show people how to take control of their problems and create their own solutions.
- We help people improve the quality of life in their communities.

How can you reach us?

- Call Denver Mediation at 303-697-8515
- Email us at dm@FindSolutions.org
- Visit us www.FindSolutions.org

News of our Neighboring Community

The Arapahoe Library District is building a new library on the corner of S. Parker and E. Florida Avenue. The 28,000 square-foot facility will open in early 2009 and will serve the communities of Glendale, Four Square Mile, and Holly Hills.

For tours or more information go to the Arapahoe County Library District website at www.arapahoelibraries.org.

June Calendar of Events

Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield FREE DAY

Friday, June 6th. 8500 Deer Creek Canyon Rd, Littleton. 303-973-3705; www.botanicgardens.org

Denver Art Museum FREE DAY

Saturday, June 7th. 100 West 14th Avenue Parkway. 720-865-5000; www.denverartmuseum.org

Capital Hill People's Fair

Saturday, June 7th- Sunday, June 8th. 10am to 8pm. FREE. Civic Center Park (Colfax & Broadway)

6th Annual La Piazza dell'Arte

Saturday, June 7th – Sunday, June 8th. Sat.: 10am-10pm & Sun.: 10am- 7pm. FREE. Larimer Square (1430 Larimer). The event will feature professional, amateur, and student artists who transform the street into a museum of bright and colorful chalk art images.

Southmoor Park East Homeowners Association Annual Garage Sale

Saturday, June 14th. East of Monaco, South of Hampden Ave., West of Quebec, North of Princeton.

Colorado Renaissance Festival

June 14th- August 3rd. Weekends from 10am to 6pm. \$17.95/Adults, \$8.00/Children. Larkspur, CO: Located off Interstate 25 at exit 173, halfway between Denver and Colorado Springs.

Greek Festival

Friday, June 20nd – Sunday, June 22nd. Fri./Sat. 11am- 11pm & Sun. 11am- 8pm. \$1/Adults (\$3 after 9:00pm), Free/Seniors & Children under 12. Assumption Greek Orthodox Cathedral (4610 East Alameda Avenue). Celebrate Greek culture and heritage with an authentic Greek marketplace (jewelry & crafts), food, dancing, and live music.

Denver PrideFest

Saturday, June 21st – Sunday, June 22nd. FREE. Civic Center Park (Colfax & Broadway). **PrideFest Parade** will start Sunday at 9:30am in Cheeseman Park and will proceed down Colfax Ave. to Civic Center Park. Denver's PrideFest is a celebration of community and culture with live music, dancing, food, art, children's activities, booths on social causes & health awareness.

Denver Museum of Nature & Science FREE DAY

Wednesday, June 25th. 2001 Colorado Blvd. 303-322-7009; www.dmns.org

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